

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Middlesex, Norfolk, and Worcester Senatorial District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Middlesex, Norfolk, and Worcester Senatorial District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 2.4% (2,944) reside in the Middlesex, Norfolk, and Worcester Senatorial District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (559) of Middlesex, Norfolk, and Worcester Senatorial District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 72.6% of admissions from the Middlesex, Norfolk, and Worcester Senatorial District were male and 27.4% were female.
- Over 60.0% of admissions were between the ages of 30-49.
- 76.4% of admissions were white non-Latino, 8.9% were black non-Latino, 10.6% were Latino, 0.4% were Asians, and 3.7% were other racial categories.
- 61.4% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 14.2% were married, and 15.4% reported not to be married now.
- 25.8% of admissions had less than high school education, 50.6% completed high school, and 23.7% had more than high school education.
- 33.2% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 30.8% of those admitted were homeless.
- 11.2% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Middlesex, Norfolk, and Worcester Senatorial District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Middlesex, Norfolk, and Worcester Senatorial District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	2,031	1,603	460	722	379	667	466
FY '96	2,490	1,933	709	935	540	972	747
FY '97	2,269	1,758	614	781	427	776	607
FY '98	2,249	1,699	561	630	332	662	505
FY '99	2,357	1,864	713	650	404	685	523
FY '00	2,785	2,068	782	735	434	937	716
FY '01	2,944	2,221	791	746	457	1,021	733

- Since FY 1995, residents of Middlesex, Norfolk, and Worcester Senatorial District reported fairly steady cocaine and crack use, while alcohol, marijuana, and heroin use increased by 39%, 72%, and 53%, respectively.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Middlesex, Norfolk, and Worcester Senatorial District.

Table 2 Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	52.6%	30.5%	6.1%	4.1%	3.0%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While marijuana, cocaine, and crack as a primary drug of use in your Senatorial District was level with the State, alcohol as a primary drug was higher, and heroin was lower within your District.